United Nations A/HRC/31/NGO/109

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2016

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Violation of humanitarian law in Yemen war; the need for the international community in support of defenseless people of Yemen

The military onslaught of Arabic countries coalition, headed by Saudi Arabia, to Yemen started nearly one year still continues. Over the last months, violating the international conventions, this coalition not only ignored the territorial sovereignty of Yemen, but also since the beginning of attacks to Yemen, the people, infrastructures, residential areas, and civilian facilities of this country were have been the targets of heavy aerial bombardment and weapons of mass destruction such as phosphorus and cluster bombs, killing and injuring thousands people from children and women to patients and the elderly in Yemen, and as a result, the Yemeni people are facing with many challenges.
According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on human needs, in 2016, more than 21 million people in Yemen (82% of citizens) need humanitarian assistance because of unfortunate situation caused by invasion to this country. The report also warned that the health system in this country is collapsing. On the other hand, about 14 million people in this country need medical services while 600 health care centers have been forced to stop their services because of the war.

United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that over the past nine months, more than 700 Yemeni children have lost their lives. According to the report, 1108 children were injured in the war. According to the report, the year 2015 was the worst year for Yemeni children. Also, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on human needs, 1 million and 800 thousand Yemeni children have denied their right to education because of the war, and 1000 schools in this country can no longer welcome the students and 174 schools are completely destroyed.

Although based on the paragraph 4 of Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of Child "the states parties to the Convention, in compliance with obligations under the international humanitarian law to protect the civilians in the armed conflict will take all possible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are vulnerable in the armed conflict", unfortunately, the silence of the UN Security Council and other international communities against the acts of Saudi Arabia in the territory of Yemenis an issue that adds to the pain and suffering of the Yemeni people.

The silence of the international community encouraged Saudi Arabia and its allies to take more steps against Yemen, since February 2015, and the death toll, especially death of women and children, increases day by day.
The impact of the Saudi military attack reached to a dangerous stage and deteriorated the human condition more than before such that even the international aid organizations and countries interested in providing humanitarian assistance are not able to provide assistance and relief. The reports also indicate that the conflicts significantly damaged the health care centers and education system and the health and educational infrastructures are basically damaged, and unfortunately, violence and displacement has created a bad situation for children. Now, Yemeni people, especially children and women, are facing severe food shortage, hunger and poverty. At the moment, more than 250 thousands Yemeni children are at risk of dying from hunger and food shortage while 6 percent of them are suffering from malnutrition.
Yemeni children now need urgent help. This aid could be made if all involved parties, as are required according to the international humanitarian laws, allow people in conflict areas have full access to services. In these areas, due to lack of hospital services and shortage of medicines, the civilians lose their lives and the preventable diseases also threaten the children's lives.
Condemning such inhumane attacks, the Iranian Elite Research Center (IREC) asks peacekeeping international organizations to take all their efforts to end the conflicts and protect the health and safety of all civilians, especially children, and make a situation for aid workers to provide medical care, food, and support to sufferers and victims.